**Introduction to Sociology**

**SO101-A (IA)**

**Spring 2022**

**TTh 9:30 am – 10:50 am**

**Harbert 325**

Instructor: Dr. Katie McIntyre

Pronouns: She/her

Email: [knmcinty@bsc.edu](mailto:knmcinty@bsc.edu)

Office: Harbert 211

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment

(This syllabus is subject to change per the instructor’s discretion)

**Course Description**

This course will introduce sociology as a way of understanding the world. Sociology is a field of study that explains social, political, and economic phenomena in terms of social structures, social forces, and group relations. It is the systematic study of the relationship between human beings and society. The course focuses on several important sociological topics, including socialization, culture, the social construction of knowledge, inequality, race and ethnic relations, and poverty, among others. By using the sociological imagination to link micro-level individual experiences to macro-eve social structures, you will be encouraged to explore your own perceptions, attitudes, prejudices, and issues regarding the social world.

**Course Objectives**

* Apply an understanding of the three main sociological paradigms to macro and micro social phenomena
* Understand, explain, and analyze social and cultural influences
* Develop a plausible understanding/interpretation/analysis in relation to relevant observations, existing knowledge, and recognized theoretical perspectives
* Communicate effectively analyses of social phenomena utilizing sociological concepts
* Demonstrate critical thinking skills

**Required Text**

Ferris, Kerry and Jill Stein. 2020. *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology* *(7th edition).* New York, NY: W.W. Norton

Additional readings assigned throughout the semester are available via Moodle.

One non-fiction book – see Moodle for details.

**Course Policies**

1. **Classroom Etiquette:** Respect fellow students and your professor. This course will cover sensitive topics, and someone (myself included) may say something with which you disagree. Sociology requires us to confront our most basic understanding of the way that society works and remain open-minded to a diverse array of approaches and understandings. We must all be respectful of different opinions throughout our discussions. We will be building a community over a safe space in this course. Everyone’s voice should be heard however, we will not tolerate rude, insensitive, demeaning, or offensive behavior or language. Disagreement is not discouraged but encouraged to clarify thoughts and understanding of material. Disagreement does not include name-calling or anything that could potentially hurt (mentally or physically) another human. Please look at the BSC Honor Code for more information.

Likewise, if a topic is upsetting to you, please send me an email so your participation for that topic can be discussed ***in advance***. If you have a larger issue with any material, please come to me directly after class or during office hours, so that we can discuss it together.

Keep in mind that in-class discussions are designed to be an educational experience based on the assigned materials, assignments and readings for that given class. Hence, although it is acceptable to express your opinion in some instances, keep in mind that you are only a sample of one person. Sociology requires you to be able to support that opinion with empirical evidence larger than one person while remining open to alternative explanations.

1. **Technology:** Cellphones, laptops, tablets, etc. should not be used during class unless otherwise specified by the professor that it is okay to use them for course-related information. If you need tech for documented academic accommodations, please let me know. Any violations of this policy will have a negative impact on your in-class participation grade.
   1. **Moodle:** Students are responsible for checking Moodle for course readings, assignments, and grades. Moodle works best using Chrome or Firefox, please – please – do not use Internet Explorer/Microsoft Edge. It just makes me sad to see and I’ll probably need additional time discussing with you why you shouldn’t use Internet Explorer/Microsoft Edge.
2. **Submission of Assignments:** All assignments should be turned in electronically via Turnitin on Moodle. If Moodle is not cooperating or you are submitting at the literal last second and Moodle does not allow you to submit you may email it for the timestamp and ask for help to submit it to Moodle for grading. An assignment that is only emailed will not be graded; it must also be submitted to Moodle. Do not ask permission to email the assignment. Just email it so it is timestamped. *Asking for forgiveness is better than permission when submitting assignments at the 11th hour.*

The only files accepted for assignments are word (.doc or .docx) and adobe (.pdf). All other file forms need to be converted. A quick google search can help with converting. ***Moodle cannot read Pages****. If you submit something to Moodle from Apple applications (Pages, Numbers, or Keynote), it will show up as a blank page.*

1. **Make-Up Exams and Presentations:** Make-up exams and presentations are only permitted in rare circumstances such as illness, family emergency, or participation in a BSC-sponsored activity with proper documentation. **Under these circumstances, it is the student’s responsibility to communicate with your professor *BEFORE* the exams or presentation to make alternative arrangements.**

*I can move mountains for your success in the course when dealing with life’s stressors that occur outside the classroom, but I need to know about these things before a due date. Keep me informed and I will help keep you on the path to academic success.*

1. **Late Work:** Is not accepted. It is the professor’s discretion to accept late work and in the (unlikely) event it is accepted, late work may be taxed with a point deduction. Under rare circumstances such as illness, family emergency, or participation in a BSC-sponsored activity, it is the student’s responsibility to communicate with the professor ASAP. With proper documentation, these absences will be considered “excused.”
2. **Academic Integrity:** BSC Honor Code states “As a member of the student body of Birmingham-Southern College, I realize my responsibility to the traditions of the institutions, to my fellow students and to myself, I recognize the significance of the Honor System, and I pledge that I will not lie, cheat, or steal as a member of the Birmingham-Southern College community.”

Please see your BSC Honor Code for full information. When it comes to avoiding plagiarism in this course – credit must be given when using the ideas of others, specifically using **ASA citation style**. Use citations when quoting directly or when paraphrasing ideas. If you are concerned you may be plagiarizing contact me before an assignment is due, I can help. There are multiple resources on ASA citation style on the course Moodle page for your reference.

1. **Statement of Non-Discrimination:** No person shall, on the basis of age, race, religion, gender, sexuality orientation, national origin or disability, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination. Please notify me in advance if there is a conflict.

Accessibility/ADA

If you are registered for academic accommodations, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations that may be necessary. During this discussion you are not expected to disclose any details concerning your disability though you may discuss the details at your discretion. Visit the [Office of Accessibility](https://www.bsc.edu/campus/accomodations/index.html) for additional information or contact Dr. Sandra Foster, the Assistant Director of Accessibility Services & Resources, at 205-226-7909 or [smfoster@bsc.edu](mailto:smfoster@bsc.edu). If you have a disability but have not contacted the Director of Counseling & Health Services, please call 205-226-4717 or visit Counseling & Health Services in the Norton Campus Center to do so ASAP.

Title IX

Birmingham-Southern College is committed to the creation and maintenance of a safe learning environment for students and the campus community. The College forbids any type of sexual or gender-based misconduct among its students, faculty, and staff. The College encourages all members of the academic community to report suspected sexual and gender-based misconduct to the appropriate authorities so that it can be investigated, remedied, and eliminated. BSC forbids retaliation against any person who has opposed, reported, or participated in an investigation concerning sexual or gender-based misconduct. See [BSC Title IX](https://www.bsc.edu/titleix/index.html) for more information, including an [online report form](https://bsc.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting). If you or a peer have experienced such misconduct, there are faculty and staff members who are trained in supporting students by answering questions and helping them navigate this process. The list of advocates can be found [here](https://www.bsc.edu/titleix/pdfs/Student-Advocate-Program-pdf.pdf), among other [helpful resources](https://www.bsc.edu/titleix/Resources.html) you will find listed on the Title IX website.

1. **Contact:** All correspondence for this course will be done through the BSC email accounts. This address is already programmed into the course and alternate address are unable to be created. It is the responsibility of the student to check this email for all course correspondence. Email is the best way to reach me. I check email often and attempt to respond in a timely fashion. Please note, however, that I may not respond within the same day to email sent after 5pm or on weekends.

*I’m here to help! I am available via email, during offices hours, and by appointment and will designate class time for material review and student questions. Ask questions early – do not wait until the last minute to express concern over your understanding of the material. My office is open for any conversation; you do not need to limit yourself to specific course questions. This is what office hours are for!*

Help Outside of Office Hours:

*First-Year Student Success Advisor 205-226-7709*

[*The Writing Center*](https://www.bsc.edu/academics/arc/centers.html) *and* [*Tutoring Lab*](https://www.bsc.edu/academics/arc/tutoring.html)

*Counseling Services 205-226-4717*

*Crisis Center of Birmingham 205-323-7777*

[*Magic City Acceptance Center*](https://www.magiccityacceptancecenter.org/)

*YWCA 205-322-4878*

**Course Requirements**

**Participation:** Class participation will count for 10% of your final grade. This will be measured through attendance and student participation in class discussions, and performance on a variety of assignments and activities. This includes discussion material you are expected to have read before class.

**Weekly Discussion:** 10% of your grade will be determined by your performance in a once-a-week discussion. On Tuesday there will be a lecture based on the material for that week, on Thursday we will have in-class discussions to dig deeper into the material. For more specifics look at the below schedule.

**Chapter Reviews:** Chapter reviews are worth 10% of your final grade. There will be six (6) chapter review opportunities given throughout the semester. Chapter reviews will cover the reading material assigned for that day, material you are expected to read before class. They are due before class begins and will be turned in via Moodle. There will be no make-up opportunities as I will drop the lowest grade.

**Film Critique:** 15% of your grade will be determined by your critical analysis of a film. Your job in this critique is to review the film through the Sociological Imagination, explain significant sociological themes throughout the movie through a summary, and conclude the cultural significance of media on society. More specific directions regarding this paper will be reviewed and distributed in class.

**Book Club Review:** Early in the semester you will choose a book (there are 7 books to choose from) to read throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, you will submit a 2–3-page review of the book. The book review is worth 15% of your final grade. More specific directions regarding this assignment will be reviewed and distributed in class. You and your peers who are reading this book together will give a **Book Club Presentation** on your book for an additional 5% of your course grade. You and your group will teach the class about your book and how it is a real-world example of what we have learned this semester.

**Mid-Term Exam:** Your mid-term exam is worth 15% of your final grade. The in-class exam will be a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

**Final Exam**: Your final exam is worth 20% of your final grade. The in-class exam will be a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions.

**Grading:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Points** | **%** |
| Participation | 100 | 10 |
| Weekly Discussion | 100 | 10 |
| Chapter Reviews | 100 (20 pts each) | 10 |
| Film Critique | 150 | 15 |
| Book Club Review | 150 | 15 |
| Book Club Presentation | 50 | 5 |
| Midterm | 150 | 15 |
| Final | 200 | 20 |
| **TOTAL** | **1000** | **100** |

**Grading Scale:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Excellent | A | 93-100% | Competent | C | 73-77% |
|  | A- | 90-92% |  | C- | 70-72% |
|  | B+ | 88-89% |  | D+ | 68-69% |
| Superior | B | 83-87% | Marginal | D | 63-67% |
|  | B- | 80-82% |  | D- | 60-62% |
|  | C+ | 78-79% |  | F | 0-59% |

**Key Dates for the Semester:**

Tuesday, February 15th is the last day for drop/add.

Tuesday, February 22nd is the last day to withdraw with *tuition adjustment*.

Thursday, March 17th is when Mid-term grades are available.

Tuesday, March 29th is the last day to drop a course with a grade of “W”.

Wednesday, May 18th is when final grades are available to seniors.

Friday, May 20th is Commencement.

Thursday, May 26th is when final grades are available.

**Class Schedule**: The attached class schedule is provided to indicate the dates on which topics will be discussed and the assigned readings for each class. Students are expected to read assigned materials *before* class discussion of the topic. All readings listed refer to the course textbook or are indicated as an electronic article available on “Moodle.” Due to unforeseen circumstances, this schedule may be changed as the course progresses.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic/Reading** | **Assignments** |
| Tuesday, Feb 1st | Syllabus & Introductions |  |
| Thursday, Feb 3rd | Sociological Imagination  *Moodle Reading – Mills* | **Work From Home**  **No Class** |
| Tuesday, Feb 8th | Sociological Theory  *Chapter 1* | **Chapter Review - Theory** |
| Thursday, Feb 10th |  | Weekly Discussion |
| Tuesday, Feb 15th | Sociological Research  *Chapter 2* | **Chapter Review - Methods** |
| Thursday, Feb 17th | *Moodle reading – Best* | *Weekly Discussion* |
| Tuesday, Feb 22nd | Culture  *Chapter 3* |  |
| Thursday, Feb 24th |  | *Weekly Discussion* |
| Tuesday, Mar 1st | Socialization  *Chapter 4* | **Chapter Review - Socialization** |
| Thursday, Mar 3rd | *Moodle Reading – Becker* | *Weekly Discussion* |
| Tuesday, Mar 8th | Deviance  *Chapter 6* |  |
| Thursday, Mar 10th |  | **MIDTERM** |
| Tuesday, Mar 15th | Social Class  *Chapter 7* |  |
| Thursday, Mar 17th |  | *Weekly Discussion* |
| Tuesday, Mar 22nd |  | SPRING BREAK |
| Thursday, Mar 24th |  | SPRING BREAK |
| Tuesday, Mar 29th | Gender  *Chapter 9* | **Film Critique Due** |
| Thursday, Mar 31st | Sex Lecture | *Extra Credit available during class* |
| Tuesday, April 5th | Race  *Chapter 8* | **Chapter Review - Race** |
| Thursday, April 7th |  | *Weekly Discussion* |
| Tuesday, April 12th | Social Institutions  *Chapter 10* |  |
| Thursday, April 14th | *Moodle Reading - Wong* | *Weekly Discussion* |
| Tuesday, April 19th | Health & Illness  Chapter 14 | **Chapter Review – Health & Illness** |
| Thursday, April 21st | *Moodle Reading* | *Weekly Discussion* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tuesday, April 26th |  | **Presentations** |
| Thursday, April 28th |  | **Presentations**  **Final Paper Due 4/29** |
| Tuesday, May 3rd | Media  *Chapter 13* | **Chapter Review - Media** |
| Thursday, May 5th | **No Class**  (Final Exam available) | **Honor’s Day** |
| Friday, May 13th | **Due by 12:00 pm**  **(noon)** | **FINAL EXAM**  ***(online)*** |

[Here is the link to all final exams for your reference](https://www.bsc.edu/records/pdfs/2021-22-Exam-Schedule--approved.pdf).