

SO 101: Introduction to Sociology  
Birmingham Southern College  
Spring 2022 | MW 11-12:20  
Class Meeting Location: Harbert 325

Instructor: Dr. Yingling Liu, Ph.D., J.D.

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 8:30-10 AM or by appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the world of sociology! In SO 101, I will guide you to seek, form, and reshape your own sociological imagination, which is "the awareness of the relationship between personal experience and the wider society" (C. Wright Mills, 1959). We will read, watch, and discuss materials that are related to various topics of sociology, at local, national, and global levels. We will apply our sociological imagination to lived experience through various types of activities. We will hear from guest speakers representing various professions and disciplines to help us rethink the world and ourselves. In all, I am dedicated to bringing the insights of the sociological imagination to your lived experience.

## REQUIRED RESOURCES

Ferris, K. & Stein, J. (2020). *The Real World: An Introduction to Sociology*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. W.W. Norton & Company. New York: NY.

Other readings as assigned, which will be uploaded to Moodle, or delivered in class.

TurningPoint APP. You will download and use your mobile phone to participate in learning activities. We will NOT use clickers.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing the course, you will be able to:

- ✓ Understand basic sociology concepts and theories.
- ✓ Apply a sociological imagination to analyze local, national and global issues.
- ✓ Integrate a sociological imagination into other ideas and disciplines.
- ✓ Conduct a sociological study from start to finish.
- ✓ See yourself as a humble citizen with compassion and sympathy in the global village.

## Overview of Assessments

All assessments are carefully chosen to serve the course objectives.

Assessments	Points	Percentage
Quizzes	20	20%
Exams	20	20%
CITI Certificate	10	10%
Journals	20	20%
Interview Project	20	20%
Social Movement Project	10	10%
Total		100%

### *Quizzes (20%)*

You will take 12 quizzes on Moodle. Each quiz will be available and taken at the beginning of each class meeting when we start a new topic, typically on Mondays. Each quiz will contain 4-5 multiple choices questions and you have 5 minutes to finish each quiz. Each time I will orally give you a code to open the quiz. Keep in mind that you must be physically present in class on time to be able to receive the code and take the quiz. There is no make-up or late submission for the quizzes. Each quiz worth 2 points and you can earn the maximum of 20 points. Your 2 lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester, which means that only 10 of your highest quiz grades will be counted toward your final grade. No late submissions or make up are accepted for quizzes.

### *Exams (20%)*

You will have 2 closed book exams in this semester – midterm and final. Each exam is worth of 10 points. All exams are cumulative and will be taken in class. The final exam will take place from 9:00-noon on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### *CITI Training & Certificate (10%)*

You will finish the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) web-based courses to satisfy the requirement for training in human subject research. Please ONLY finish the “social & behavioral research investigators” basic course. Once you finish the training, you need to download the PDF certificate or screenshot your certificate. Then you need to upload your certificate (either PDF OR screenshot) to Moodle in order to earn full credit (5 points). THE SYSTEM WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY SEND YOUR CERTIFICATE TO ME. The link to the website is posted on Moodle. You can earn a maximum of 10 points for this assessment.

### *Journals (20%)*

You will complete 4 journal entries (minimum 450 words each) for the semester (see the list below). For each journal, I will provide you with a general requirement and an overarching theme. You can develop it however way you want to. A journal completed will include minimal grammatical errors and include good sociological insight into the topic. Each journal is worth 5 points and you can earn the maximum of 20 points for this assessment. More details of this assessment will be provided separately on Moodle.

List of journals:

- (1) *When I am 75* Prompt and Image
- (2) COVID, me, and the world
- (3) Sociologists' Movie Club
- (4) Personal reflection: Sociological me.

#### *Interview Project (20%)*

You will conduct an in-depth interview and write a reflection paper (minimum 800 words, double spaced, 12-point font, EXCLUDE title page, reference, and appendix). The purpose of this assignment is to stand in the shoes of someone else. You should choose a topic in your interests. Your interviewee should hold a different opinion than you on the topic. You will submit the paper to Moodle. You can earn a maximum of 20 points for this assessment. The details and rubric of this assignment will be provided on Moodle.

#### *Social Movement Project (10%)*

You will create a podcast, Facebook page, radio program, artwork, game, speech, video, song, performance, monologue, public presentation, or any other creative work to propose a social movement you may want to start. And you will write a short essay (200-250 words) to explain your project. You will upload your product as well as the essay to Moodle. You can do this project individually or team up with other classmates. If you choose to do this project in a team, you need to get the prior approval from me. The project needs to be complex enough to be qualified as a team project. Every team member will receive the same grade if you choose to do this in a team. You can earn a maximum of 10 points for this assessment. The details and rubric of this assignment will be provided on Moodle.

#### GRADING SCALE

The grade scale is listed below. Rounding (for example, an 89.67% is viewed as a 90% or an A) has already been built into the grading scale. Keep in mind that class participation and attendance may figure decisively in your final grade. Thus, plan to be in class on time and participate actively. No extra credit will be offered at the end of the semester. Considerable grace has been built into the syllabus and course design, so do not plan on grade changes at the end of the semester. If you are concerned about your grade in the course, address it with me early in the semester and there will be a much better chance of you getting a good grade than if you wait until later on.

*As a reminder, I do not give grades, you earn them.*

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%

## Course Policies & Procedures

### Face Masks

In order to create the healthiest environment possible, BSC students and instructors MUST wear face masks (surgical grade or N95 alike) over their mouths and noses while in class sessions. Please note that a cloth mask is NOT SUFFICIENT. Refusals to abide by these policies may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Code of Conduct.

### Academic Integrity

BSC Honor Code "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."

Any misconduct, unethical behavior, or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, lying, stealing, plagiarism, harassment, and the creation of an unsafe or threatening learning environment. The student must document all sources of information, including computer usage. Credit must be given when using the ideas of others using ASA citation style. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure work is original in nature and when unsure how to properly cite outside work, should contact the professor ASAP. All assignments in this course should be completed independently unless otherwise specified. Any suspected violation of the BSC Honor Code will be taken seriously and immediately reported.

### Turn-It-In Assignment

Journals and interview project will be submitted to Turn-It-In to test for originality. Based on the BSC Honor Code stated above, plagiarism will be reported, and the corresponding assignment will receive 0.

### Attendance and Participation

College is expensive and time consuming. It is a great privilege to be able to participate in higher education because there are millions of people (mostly women) around the world who do not have the opportunity to do so. Thus, let's make every penny and minute count! First thing first, you have to show up! Although attendance is not part of your grade, I will take attendance in every class meeting. And you are expected to be actively engaging in class discussions. Be prepared to contribute when called on.

### Late Work

All assignments (excluding quizzes and exams) are due at 11:59pm on the respective due dates. Late is defined as not submitted to Moodle by the due date and time. The due dates are listed on the course calendar as well as posted to Moodle. All assignments submitted late within 24 hours after the due date will receive 10% penalty. Assignments submitted after the 24 hours of the due date will receive a 0.

\*\*\*You may make up exams or submit late work with no penalty ONLY under the following circumstances:

- (1) You are isolating and experiencing severe COVID-19 symptoms (proper documentation required),
- (2) You are having a medical emergency or have been directed by a physician not to attend class due to illness (medical documentation required),
- (3) You have a documented family emergency, or
- (4) You are absent due to a college sponsored event (proper documentation required).

### Communication

I like talking to people and I love students! That means I always welcome students to interact with me. Email is the best way to reach me. And, please take advantage of my office hours or make an appointment.

I may have limited availability on nights and weekends. I do appreciate you writing a clear subject in every email you send to me. Please always start your subject with "SO 101 introduction to sociology" followed by a short phrase of your questions. For example, if you are asking a question about quiz 1, please write your email subject like this: "SO 101-question about quiz 1". Doing so will expedite my response to you. For me, an email without a clear subject signals nonimportant and nonurgent.

Remember, if you have concerns about this class, let me know as soon as possible. If you don't let me know your concern, that concern may never exist to me. Contact me sooner rather than later. Emailing me about your concern of quiz 1 at the end of the semester is not going to help you at all.

### Safe Spaces and Trigger Warnings

This class is a safe space for you to hold and share opinions and analyses without fear of discrimination. However, this is not a safe space for anyone to be shielded from controversial opinions. The heart of sociology is grappling with difficult ideas, opinions and realities. The current body of sociological research is a compilation of the thoughts of an ideologically diverse group of men and women writing over the course of several generations. Some of them wrote quite conventionally, while others had ideas that some of us might find shocking. As sociologists, we are tasked with understanding why people believe and behave as they do. Sometimes this involves understanding their worldviews, which could make us uncomfortable. Finally, as we engage and analyze the real world, we often find that reality is not always politically correct. When we are confronted with ugly realities and worldviews that offend us, we best conquer them when we understand them, not when we hide from them.

### International Students

If you identify yourself as an international student, I want to give you a special welcome to be in my class! Was an international student myself before being a professor, I understand the difficulties of being in a new place that is far away from family, friends and familiarities. I am happy to be a resource to you and provide any help I can to make your life easier at BSC.

### First Generation College Students

A first-generation college student is a student whose parents did not complete a four-year college degree. I am the first in my family to graduate with a four-year bachelor's degree (and a law degree, a master's degree, and a doctoral degree). I understand the struggles and challenges a first-generation college student has. Please don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can help with.

### Turning Point APP

We will use Turning Point APP to conduct real-time polling in class. You will use your mobile phone to participate, NOT YOUR CLCKER.

### Counseling Services

BSC Counseling Services offers students of all backgrounds, races, religious beliefs, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, ethnicities, and cultures a safe place to discuss and resolve issues that interfere with personal and academic goals. The Counseling Services office recognizes and honors the complex intersectionality of all aspects of a person's identity and presenting concerns. All enrolled BSC students are eligible for counseling at no cost. Students can schedule an appointment by calling 205-226-4717, or in-person on the second floor of Norton Campus Center in the Counseling & Health Services suite next to Student Development. Visit the Counseling & Health Services website for more information.

### Accommodations

If you have a documented disability and need academic accommodations in this course, please speak with me privately as soon as possible so I can be prepared to meet your needs. All disabilities must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Services which will provide an academic accommodations letter to me outlining your needs. If you have not already registered with the Office of Accessibility Services, please contact Dr. Sandra Foster, Assistant Director of Accessibility Services at BSC as soon as possible: (205) 226-7909 or Norton 228 or [smfoster@bsc.edu](mailto:smfoster@bsc.edu) or [accessibility@bsc.edu](mailto:accessibility@bsc.edu).

### 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 the BSC Title IX website ([www.bsc.edu/titleix](http://www.bsc.edu/titleix)) for more information, including an online report form. 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 along with other helpful resources on the Title IX website.

## Course Calendar

The following is a tentative schedule of the topics that will be covered this semester. This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be communicated orally in class and in writing on Moodle.

\*\*\* the schedule of discussions will be provided separately on Moodle.

Dates	Day	Topic to be Covered	Readings	Assignment Due
Feb 2	W	Introduction and Syllabus		
7	M	Overview and Methods	Chapter 1 (p9-16) Chapter 2	Quiz 1
9	W			
14	M	Theories	Chapter 1 (p19-34)	Quiz 2
16	W			CITI Certificate
21	M	Culture	Chapter 3	Quiz 3
23	W			Journal #1
28	M	Socialization	Chapter 4	Quiz 4
Mar 2	W			
7	M	Groups	Chapter 5	Quiz 5
9	W			
14	M	Deviance Midterm Exam	Chapter 6	Quiz 6
16	W			Midterm & Journal #2
21	M	Spring Break!!! No classes!		
23	W			
28	M	Race and Ethnicity Interview Project Workshop	Chapter 8	Quiz 7
30	W			
Apr 4	M	Gender	Chapter 9	Quiz 8
6	W			
11	M	Social Class	Chapter 7	Quiz 9
13	W			Journal #3
18	M	Family and Relationships	Chapter 12	Quiz 10
20	W			Interview Project
25	M	Health, Pandemic, and Society	Chapter 14	Quiz 11
27	W			
May 2	M	Education and Religion	Chapter 10 (p286-304)	Quiz 12
4	W			Journal #4
9	M	Conclusion		Social Movement Project
16	Final Day	Final Exam (9-noon)		Final Exam