

Fall 2022
SOC 111-01 Honors Introductory Sociology
T-Th 11:30am-12:45pm
PLASSMANN 301

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375- 7634 (office)

Office Hours: Monday 11:00am – 12:30pm
Tuesday 12:50pm – 1:10pm
Wednesday 11:00am - 12:30pm
Thursday 12:50pm – 1:10pm
By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Course Catalogue describes the Soc 101 Introductory Sociology class as **“a comparative and historical analysis of human societies.”** But it is so much more! Societies are the context for all that we experience as human beings, but we often take these settings for granted. Our families, schools, and jobs, beyond being avenues for our own contact with the world, are also major components of the society in which we live. Moreover, these components influence the very ways in which we live. Sociology is the discipline that attempts to understand how societies work. In this course, which focuses primarily on the United States, we will consider sociology’s varied intellectual origins, its competing perspectives, and the institutions which shape our experience in society. In this process, we will attempt to understand how society is a human creation and humans are a social creation. We will also consider some of the basic tenets of psychology and political science as they too reflect the social sciences and are often related to sociology. Topics to be discussed include culture, socialization, income and race and gender stratification, family, deviance, and gerontology.

PROGRAM GOALS

Upon successful completion of the Sociology program at St. Bonaventure University, graduates will be able to:

- identify, apply and analyze components of research methodology;
- identify, apply and analyze theoretical paradigms;
- apply and synthesize sociological knowledge outside the classroom.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the Introductory course, students will be able to;

- Identify the differences between rigorous and systematic thinking versus unscientific thinking about social phenomena (Social Science common goals #1 and #2)
- Identify components of the scientific methods used to explore social phenomena including hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and analysis. (Social Science common goal #1)
- Employ basic sociological concepts in the analysis of social behavior and society. (Social Science common goal #3)
- Identify and analyze the impact of various social institutions on individuals and

- society (Social Science common goal #3)
- Identify and analyze the relationship between various social institutions (Social Science common goal #3)
- Understand the causes, prevalence and social consequences of inequality (Social science common goal #3)

READINGS

The readings for this class will come from several sources. The readings are primarily coming from *Society the Basics* by John J. Macionis (15th Edition). We will also review, as a class, several classical excerpts from such major social theorists as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Irving Goffman. You will be asked to write 1 ½ pages on each of these, relating it to the respective theories addressed. They will not be graded, but they will go towards your class participation. More will be said in class about this.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to class participation, there will be two tests, four papers, and a final exam. The exams will be both objective, with multiple choice, fill-in, and true/false, as well as one short essay question. The first exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4th**.

Review Papers

You will be responsible for four review papers. Some are longer than others. The papers are addressed separately below. If a paper is not turned in at the time indicated, you will be penalized 10 points. An additional 3 points will be deducted for each additional day

Paper 1: Theory Review

We will spend three classes discussing the three primary paradigms that are the basis for sociological theories. I am asking each of you to speak with a faculty member in your respective major department, to learn about the paradigms and/or theories that guide your discipline. You will write up the key points discussed with the faculty member in a **2-3** page paper for submission. **This paper is due on Tuesday, September, 20th via Moodle.**

Paper 2: Methods Review

This paper is similar to the theory review. We will spend three classes discussing research methodology and ethics in the Social Sciences. I will once again ask you to speak with a faculty member in your respective major...preferably a different faculty member, so that you meet at least two faculty from your major during this first month of classes. Discuss with them the primary methods undertaken for research in your discipline. You will write up the key points discussed with the faculty member in a **2-3** page paper for submission. **This paper is due on Thursday, September 29th via Moodle.**

Paper 3: Theory/Methods Review of Short Research Article.

This paper will allow you to take a short social scientific research article, and consider the theoretical paradigm behind the work and the method(s) used to gather the materials used by the researchers. It will be based on one of three articles listed below and posted on the Moodle page. You will also address the findings of the article. You will write up a **3-4** page overview of the article. **This paper is due on Tuesday, October 18th via Moodle.**

The articles for you to select from are listed below and are on the Moodle Site.

Muhammad Ali Balouch, et. al., Online social networking usage and frequency of Depression in Undergraduate University students. Journal of the University Medical Dental College. Vol 13(2) 2022.

Elia Bueno, et. al., "That was the Biggest Help": The Importance of Familial Support for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Community College Students. Frontiers in Education. Vol. 7. 2022.

Paper 4: Article Review 2

Throughout the semester, we will be discussing a number of different topics, from culture, to gender and racial stratification, to family, deviance, and aging to name a few. In order for you to gain a greater depth on one of the topics, I am inviting you to write your fourth article review on a topic of your choice. At the beginning of the third week of class, you will each select a topic that will be addressed during the semester. You will then meet with me over the next few weeks and select an article that relates to your topic.

Much like Paper 3, the goals of the paper are three-fold. First, the review will allow you to look in greater depth at a topic within the field of sociology that you might want to know more about, but may not be covered extensively in class. Secondly, this exercise will assist you as sociologists in understanding the role of theory and research methods in undertaking sociological studies. You will be expected to address the basic premise of the article. You will discuss the theory that was used within the paper. If this is not clearly spelled out, tell me so, and speculate as to what theoretical paradigm you think the author is working from.

You will also be responsible to discuss the methodology employed in the study. Did the researcher use a survey, participant observation, in-depth-interviews, or other? Finally, what were the findings of the study?

What is new to this paper is that you will also be expected to address future research possibilities as well as strengths and limitations of the study. Often a researcher will speak to this at the end of the article. Highlight the key points made. If they do not, or if you believe that there are future possibilities as well as strengths and limitations not addressed, please go ahead and talk about them. Finally, you will write two paragraphs that connect the material to the class discussion on that topic.

Failure to address the theory and/or methodology will result in a loss of ten points for each section. **This paper is due, via Moodle or in the box on my office door, by 12noon on Friday, November 18th.** You should anticipate this paper being roughly **4-5 pages**.

The articles for you to select from are listed below and are on the Moodle Site.

Leonard Lim, et. al., Assessing the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, shift to online learning, and social media use on the mental health of college students in the Philippines. Vol. 17(5) 2022.

Yang Yang, Manyu Li, and Hung-Chu Lin, Parental Psychological Control, Social Capital, Substance Use, and Driving Under the Influence among College Students: Sex Differences. Journal of Child and Family Studies Vol 31: 1207-2019. 2022.

Make-up Exams and Late Papers

I am not a big fan of make-up exams. I can easily spend half my semester doing make-up exams. For that reason, any make-up exams are going to be offered at one time each month. This will cut down on the number of make-up exams I have to create and give. In order to ensure availability of all students, make-up exams will be given on the following Wednesday or Monday at 12:30pm. **(Wednesday, October 5th, and Monday, Nov. 7th).** We will meet at my office in Plassmann and move to a classroom to fit the size of the group in need of make-ups. Regarding papers, if a paper is not submitted at the time that it is listed as being due, ten (10) points will be deducted. An additional 3 points will be deducted for each late day.

Final Exam

The final exam, while not cumulative, will include material from the first part of the semester on theory and research methods. Like the tests, a review guide will be provided for the final. The final is scheduled for **Thursday, Dec. 15th from 10:35am to 1:05pm.**

A review guide will be posted to Moodle 5-7 days before each exam, including the final.

The course requirements will be graded in the following manner:

Exams	35%
Short Papers (1,2)	15%
Article Review Papers (3, 4)	25%
Final Exam	25%

93.0 -100 = A 90.0-92.9 = A- 87.0 – 89.9 = B+ 83.0-86.9 = B 80.0-82.9 = B-

77.0 – 79.9 = C+ 73.0-76.9 = C 70.0-72.9 = C- 67.0 – 69.9 = D+ 63.0-66.9 = D

60.0-62.9 = D- 59.9 and below = F.

Bonus Points

As an extra credit option, you will be asked to write a 2 ½ - 3 page paper on Social Media and Technology, based on a short You Tube video and a very short article that I will ask you to read. This paper will be submitted on **Tuesday, November 29th** at class time via Moodle. This assignment is worth 5 points added to your lowest exam grade.

I will provide three additional opportunities for you to earn bonus points. Each opportunity will be worth five points. You can complete two of these opportunities for a total of 15 points (as you will have earned five points from the above assignment) to be added to your semester exam grade. On three occasions during the semester beginning with the end of our conversation on stratification, I will pose a question in the final powerpoint of a topic for you to address in a 2 ½ page response that will include your thoughts/opinions on the topic and question, and also brings in material from the topic discussed. So for example, I might pose a question like this at the end of a stratification based slide, such as race and ethnicity: **Maccionis states that pluralism has not been reached yet in American society. Do you believe that we can ever be a pluralistic society? Provide two arguments to support your position. Finally, what do you believe it will take for us to reach real pluralism?** You will write and submit to me in class on the day that it is listed in the slide as being due at the beginning of class time. I will provide three opportunities and you are welcome to complete two of them for five extra points each.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who feel they need academic accommodations should contact Adriane Spencer (aspencer@sbu.edu), Director of Disability Support Services Office, 100D Plassmann Hall (Student Success Center), 716-375-2065. Please reach out early in the semester so that we can assist you as soon as possible. Documentation from the Disability Support Services Office is required before the instructor can make accommodations. <http://bit.ly/1iOybaE>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is inconsistent with the moral character expected of students in a University committed to the spiritual and intellectual growth of the whole person. It also subverts the academic process by distorting all measurements. It is a serious matter and will be dealt with accordingly. A list of unacceptable practices, penalties to be assigned, and procedures to be followed in prosecuting cases of alleged academic dishonesty may be found in the Student Handbook or at the following link: <http://bit.ly/1k7FV2f>

If you are having difficulty with class material or your papers, please come and see me. I have posted office hours but can be available to meet with you at most any time. Bonus is to be a learning experience and I will do whatever I can to help you get the most from this experience. No question or problem is too small or too large!

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
8/30	Class Introduction/Syllabus	Read the Syllabus
9/1	Sociological Perspective/History of Sociology	Chapter 1
9/6	Intro to Theory/ Structural Functionalism	Weber Rdg
9/8	Theory: Conflict Theory	Marx Rdg
9/13	Theory: Symbolic Interactionism	Goffman Rdg
9/15	Research Methods	
9/20	Research Methods	Paper 1 Theory Due
9/22	Research Ethics	
9/27	Culture	Chapter 2
9/29	Socialization	Chapter 3
10/4	EXAM I	Paper 2 Methods Due
10/6	Social Interaction	Chapter 4
10/8 – 10/11	FALL BREAK	ENJOY!
10/13	Social Stratification	Chapter 8
10/18	Social Stratification	Paper 3 Short Article Review Due
10/20	Gender	Chapter 10
10/25	Gender	
10/27	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 11
11/1	Race and Ethnicity	
11/3	EXAM II	
11/8	Family	Chapter 13
11/10	Family	

11/15	Deviance	Chapter 7
11/17	Deviance	
Friday 11/18 Paper 4 Article Review Paper Due by 12noon		
11/22	Social Media Technology	
11/23	THANKSGIVING BREAK	ENJOY!
11/29	Aging	Moodle Rdg
12/1	Aging	
12/6	STUDENT SELECTED CHAPTER	Chapter Material
12/8	STUDENT SELECTED CHAPTER AND PAPER 4 DISCUSSION	

Final Exam: Thursday, Dec. 15th from 10:35am to 1:05pm.

There will be two absences allowed for this class. You risk losing a letter grade for additional absences without some notification from the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

NOTE: Computers will *initially* be allowed for class time. However, history has shown that many students do not use their computers for class work, and instead use them for other purposes. Research also shows that students perform better when they are taking notes using traditional methods (**Patterson and Patterson (2017), *Computers and productivity: Evidence from laptop use in the college classroom. Economics of Education Review. April 2017, Vol. 57, p66-79***). If I get the sense that those using their computers are doing so for reasons other than taking notes, I will most likely end access to computers for either a short period of time, or for the remainder of the semester.

Also, cell phones are to be off and in your bookbag or at the front of your desk. being found with a phone in hand, lap, etc is subject to the loss of one third letter grade each time!

Beginning on the second day of class, I will ask you to sit in a seat that you wish to maintain for the remainder of the semester. This will allow me to create a seating chart that I can use to get to know names and also provide to the university if necessary for quarantine.

Due to my struggles last year with maintaining zoom links for students, I will not be using zoom this semester. If you are quarantined, and I have the documentation from Cattaraugus County listing the time of quarantine, I will not count this towards your two class absences. You will then come and see me after quarantine and I will work through all missed lectures with you at that time.

Syllabus is subject to minor changes during the semester.