

Introduction to sociology, sec 14
Kimbrough music bldg. 101
10:10-11am M, W, F
Spring 2016

Dr. Erik Johnson
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Office Hours: Mondays, 11am-1pm

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Friday 12-1pm

Description

This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to Sociology. The first section of the course will provide an introduction to the sociological perspective and the disciplines' application of scientific logic and methods. The second section will examine culture, social structure, and socialization. In the final section of the course, we will explore in more depth two core interests of sociology: deviance and stratification. Throughout the semester students will have opportunities to practice important writing, critical thinking, and quantitative literacy skills.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Development of a "sociological imagination."
- 2) Understand major theoretical concepts and perspectives in sociology
- 3) Improvement of critical thinking
- 4) Development of quantitative literacy skills.

Course Materials

The Practical Skeptic: Core Concepts in Sociology, 6th edition. Lisa J. McIntyre

The Practical Skeptic: Readings in Sociology, 6th edition. Lisa J. McIntyre

i-clicker

Course assignments (1000 point grading scale)

3 exams (400 points: 125, 125, 150): *You must bring a University ID-card to all exams, and should bring #2 pencils as well.* Exams include a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. All material contained in the course text, readings, and lectures is subject to testing. The final course exam is cumulative and will be given during the University provided testing slot during finals week.

Reading response journal (230 points, 46 points each): You are expected to complete all of the assigned readings during the week they are listed on the course calendar below, and will be responsible for them on exams. Additionally, I have highlighted in the course calendar one reading (almost) every week that I think is particularly important and for which you are expected to write a response to a prompt provided through Blackboard. Responses are due by 5pm on Mondays the following week (so, you are responsible for writing a response to the reading in week 1, reading #1 by C. Wright Mills, and uploading that response to Blackboard, no later than 5pm on Monday January 18... except that is MLK Day so you have until 5pm of the next business day). Late responses will be assessed a 10% penalty per day.

The Mills reading will be graded and you will receive detailed feedback. After that, the course TA will randomly select 4 weeks and grade assignments from those weeks on a quick scale of: exceptional, A, B, C, D, F, or missing/unacceptable (46, 44, 39, 35, 28, 23 and 0 points, respectively). Your readings will be graded five times in total, and your lowest score on this portion of your grade will be dropped to account for a hiccup during the semester or technical problems.

Assignments (270 points, 90 each): There will be three assignments during the semester that are submitted via Blackboard. These assignments are due NO LATER than the time indicated on Blackboard. Late assignments will be penalized 10pts per day (1 minute counts as late here. All that matters is how Blackboard records the time. This is an arbitrary norm, but at least consistent). If you are having technical difficulties, e-mail your TA *prior* to the closing of the relevant assignment submission period *and attach the work you are having difficulty submitting*. Whenever we receive an actual document, not an e-mail with an explanation/excuse/promise of future action or a submission with the incorrect document, that is the time it will be considered as accepted for submission.

Trading Activity: During the last third of the semester there will be “special” extended class sessions to play a trading-based game on two days. Attendance on one of these days, and participation in this game during one of the two available sessions, is a prerequisite to writing a paper that will constitute your second assignment. You will get more detail on the paper just before or after we do this trading activity.

i-clickers (100pts): To register your i-clicker go to <http://www1.iclicker.com/register-an-iclicker/>.

Throughout the semester I will use powerpoint slides to pose a number of questions that presage the types of questions that will appear on exams (responses worth .25points, correct responses 1point). At the end of the semester I will determine how many questions I asked and detract some amount to determine how many points were “reasonably available.”

Anyone earning 25% of these i-points will receive 80pts on this portion of their grade. Anyone who accumulates 55-64% of the reasonably available i-points will receive 86 points for this portion of the grade. Those garnering 65-79% of reasonably available i-points will receive 92 points. Those garnering 80-89% reasonably available i-points will receive 98 points on this portion of their grade. Anyone who receives 90-100% of reasonably available i-points will receive 105 points on this portion of their grade.

I-clickers that are not registered within four weeks of class starting will be assessed a 10% penalty. Clickers not registered before the major semester break (Thanksgiving or Spring) will be assessed a 25% penalty. Failure to register prior to the final exam is a 50% penalty. Registrations that occur after the end of finals week will not be accepted and offenders will receive a 0 on this portion of their grade.

Extra-credit:

There are days marked on the course calendar below as “film days.” I think these films present powerful examples of sociological concepts and so I provide extra-credit to encourage attendance on these days. For each of these days if you attend and respond to BOTH clicker prompts (one at the beginning and one at the end of the period) you will receive 10 extra-credit points. Whether or not you show up in time and stay for the whole period, these films will also be the subject of test questions. I will try hard not to move these days around, but reserve the right to make changes to the schedule if necessary. If changes to the schedule are made they will be announced in class and/or over the blackboard distribution list.

It is possible, but not necessarily true, that extra-credit opportunities will be provided during class sessions on an ad-hoc basis. Attendance in class those days would typically be a pre-requisite to being eligible for those opportunities.

I offer no other out of class opportunities for extra credit work.

Grading scale (% of total)

>94	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
83-6	B
80-2	B-
77-9	C+
73-6	C
70-2	C-
67-9	D+
60-6	D
<60	F

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the university. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work you submit. You may collaborate with classmates on assignments. However the guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that your submitted work, examinations, reports, and projects must be your own work. Any student who violates the University's standard of conduct relating to academic integrity will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and may fail the assignment or the course. You can learn more about Academic Integrity at <http://conduct.wsu.edu/academic-integrity-policies-and-resources>. Please use these resources to ensure that you don't inadvertently violate WSU's standard of conduct.

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please either visit or call the Access Center (Washington Building 217; 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center. For more information contact a Disability Specialist at: 509-335-3417 or <http://accesscenter.wsu.edu>, Access.Center@wsu.edu

Excused absences: Athletes and others are eligible to receive partial i-clicker points for days missed with *excused* University absences. To receive these points the burden is on you to assemble and provide your TA with either a comprehensive list of all absences that will occur, or collated individual absence excuse forms. Coordinate this and any other special arrangements with your course TA, not your instructor.

Safety and Emergency Notification: Washington State University is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It is highly recommended that you review the Campus Safety Plan (<http://safetyplan.wsu.edu/>) and visit the Office of Emergency Management web site (<http://oem.wsu.edu/>) for a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information related to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community.

Calendar

Wk	Date	Class Material	Readings Topic
1	Jan 11 13 Jan 15	Intro Orienting the Discipline Sociological imagination	Text: introduction, chap 1, 2 Readings: #1 (C. Wright Mills "The Promise"), 2
2	Jan 18 20 Jan 22	MLK Day Sociological imagination (film day) Sociological imagination	Text: chap 3, 4 Readings: # 3
3	Jan 25 27 Jan 29	Logic and inquiry Logic and Inquiry Logic and inquiry	Text: chap 5, 6 Readings: #5, 6
4	Feb 1 3 Feb 5	Logic and Inquiry (assign #1 due b4 class: tables. Bring a copy of this assignment to class) Logic and Inquiry Logic and Inquiry	Text: chap Readings: #7
5	Feb 8 10 Feb 12	Test 1 Culture Culture	Text: chap 7 Readings: #8, 9, 10
6	Feb 15 17 Feb 19	Presidents Day Culture Culture	Text: chap 8 Readings #11
7	Feb 22 24 Feb 26	Social Structure (film day) Social structure Social Structure	Text: chap 9 Readings: # 14, 15, 16, 17, 19
8	Feb 29 March 2 March 4	Socialization Socialization Socialization	Text: 10 Readings: #20, 21, 22, 23, 24
9	March 7 9 March 11	Socialization Test 2 Socialization	Text: Readings:
10	March 14 16 March 18	Spring Break	Spring Break
11	March 21 23 March 25	Deviance Deviance Deviance	Text: chap 11 Readings: readings 25, 26
12	March 28	Deviance	Text: Readings: #27, 30

	30	Environmental	
	April 1	Environmental	
13	April 4	Inequality	Text: Readings:
	6	Trading Activity	
	April 8	Trading Activity	
14	April 11	Inequality (assign #2 due)	Text: chap 12 Readings: #31, 32
	13	Inequality (film day)	
	April 15	Inequality (film day)	
15	April 18	Inequality	Text: chap 13 Readings: #33, 34, 35
	20	Inequality (film day)	
	April 22	Inequality	
16	April 25	Inequality (assign #3 due)	Text: chap 14 Readings: #36, 37, 39
	27	Makeup DAY	
	April 29	Individual Appointments	