SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology
Hunter College, CUNY | Winter 2025

Mode of Instruction: Online Asynchronous
Office Hours: by appointment, through Calendly

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Course Description: Sociology is a discipline that encourages critical thinking and a deep understanding of societal relations.

Learning Objectives: This course aims for students to:

- Understand and apply basic sociological concepts such as power, culture, the sociological imagination, social change, socialization, stratification, social structure, race relations, and social institutions and the theoretical perspectives used to understand them.
- Identify the influences of social structures on individuals and groups (especially age, religion, gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity, class, and economic inequality), and the effects of individual thought and behavior on society.
- Understand the scientific method to appropriately design, conduct, collect, and analyze qualitative and quantitative social scientific data.
- Identify and analyze sociological arguments in research papers and be able to discuss their primary claims, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Identify major sociological theories, compare and contrast the underlying assumptions of those theories, and apply those theories to social phenomena.
- Construct a sociological argument about cause and effect orally and in writing.

Changes to the Syllabus: The syllabus is a guide and is subject to change. All changes will be made on Brightspace, if any.

Course Materials and Readings: All required readings will be available on Brightspace. Hunter College is part of a program called "Hunter Zero Cost" in which the main goal is to provide courses to students with zero cost for materials. We will use *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist* by Dalton Conley (sixth edition). A PDF version of this textbook will be provided on Blackboard. Occasionally, we will read from outside this textbook (or watch videos), and those will also be provided on Brightspace.

Contacting Instructor: I will be available over email if you need to contact me for any reason. Please make sure you reference the course name and the general topic of your email in the subject of your email message. Otherwise, it may be filtered to spam. You should expect to wait at least 24 hours to hear back from me. If you email me on Friday or during the weekend, please do not expect a response until Monday. I will adhere to professional standards of written correspondence in my email communications with you. Please extend the same courtesy to me by using professional language, tone, and style.

Course Breakdown:

80% Weekly Reading Reflection Worksheets (4): Each week, I will provide a worksheet covering the topics assigned. Each worksheet has a question relating to each of the topics that is intended to help you connect the sociological concept to real world observations or experiences. These assignments are supposed to be personal. I do not want a summary of the concepts you read, I want to see how these impact your life, or general society. Sociology is a discipline that seeks to understand various societal relationships, so these worksheets are aimed at helping you think sociologically. These will be due at the end of each week.

20% Reflection Paper (1): Each student will be required to write one (1) two-page reflection paper on an assigned topic of your choosing. The reflection should demonstrate your ability to identify the article's thesis, think critically about the material, explain its significance and lasting legacy, and a personal reflection. Similar to the worksheets, this is not a summary of the topic/themes/concepts. The bulk of your reflection paper should consist of your own ideas, experiences, or observations, and how those relate to said topic of choice. Your final draft should be double-spaced, 12 point font in either Arial or Times New Roman, properly organized, and free of spelling and grammar mistakes. If you are citing the textbook or a video or an external source, please add a works cited page. Papers must be uploaded as a .pdf or .docx to Brightspace. Early submissions are encouraged as I will grade them as I receive them. I recommend completing this assignment after learning about a topic that was interesting to you.

Late assignments are generally not accepted. If unusual circumstances are making it difficult to turn assignments in on time, please let me know ahead of time, or as soon as possible. I always try to be as accommodating as possible.

Please note that there will not be the option for taking an incomplete in this class.

Hunter Policies and Student Resources:

Disability Statement and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
People learn differently from one another. If class members require special accommodations for a documented learning difference, such as additional time, audio/visual aids, or other accommodations on assignments, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements for you to succeed in this class. Students can document any learning differences or disabilities with the Office of AccessABILITY. From the College: "In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230."

Academic Integrity (Read Here):
Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity: "Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing

the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. **Cheating** is the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices, or communication during an academic exercise. **Plagiarism** is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research, or writing as your own. **Obtaining Unfair Advantage** is any action taken by a student that gives that student an unfair advantage in their academic work over another student, or an action taken by a student through which a student attempts to gain an unfair advantage in their academic work over another student.

Hunter College's Policy on Sexual Misconduct

From the College: "In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College. a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, or contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contact the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444). b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

Hunter College Libraries

The Hunter College Libraries, with locations at all of our campuses, offer the Hunter College community access to a wide variety of services, collections, and spaces for research and teaching. At the 68th Street campus, the Leon & Toby Cooperman Library occupies nine floors in the East Building, with entrances to the library on the 3rd and 7th floors. The Cooperman Library is home to the Hunter College Archives & Special Collections (Floor 2), the Silverstein Student Success Center (Floor 7), and the Education Library (Floor 6). Also at the 68th Street campus, the Zabar Art Library is located on the 16th Floor of the North Building. The Brookdale campus (425 East 25th Street) is home to the Health Professions Library, and the Silberman Building (2180 Third Avenue) houses the Social Work and Urban Public Health Library. Much of Hunter College's collection is available through online access at https://library.hunter.cuny.edu.

Our spaces include collaborative work areas, reservable study rooms, and areas for quiet study. Additionally, we provide desktop, laptop, and tablet computers as well as printers, photocopiers, scanners, and whiteboards.

Counseling and Wellness Services

CWS provides mental health and wellness services aimed at enhancing students' quality of life and maximizing personal and academic growth and development. **Counseling Services** provides short-term individual counseling, crisis intervention, psycho-education, outreach, and referral to the Hunter College student body, and consultation services to faculty, staff, students, and others. **Wellness Services** is responsible for both health and mental health promotion and education, and the management of student compliance with immunization requirements. For more information please contact CWS at (212)-772-4931 or go to East 1123.

Food Assistance: Purple Pantry

To support our students, the Division of Student Affairs provides one bag of groceries that will accommodate about four meals free of charge via the Purple Apron food pantry. Bags will be distributed in the **West Building, Room B103**. The Purple Apron is open to all currently enrolled Hunter students. Students can receive a bag of groceries **once per day if needed.** Please bring a reusable bag, if possible. No sign-up is required. Walk-ins welcome. Hunter ID is required for entry.

Main Campus 68th Street | Lower Level of West Building Room B103 – 212-396-6418 | @hcpurpleapron

Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 9:00am–6:00pm
- Tuesday: 9:00am–6:00pm
- Wednesday: 1:00pm–6:00pm
- Thursday: 9:00am–12:00pm
- Friday: 10:00am–5:00pm

More Student Resources Here

Gender Pronouns and Names

If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster. Feel free to correct me on your gender pronoun or if you don't use a gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Purposefully and repeatedly referring to fellow class members using improper names and/or pronouns can be considered harassment and will not be tolerated.

Class Weekly Schedule*

**Assignments may change at the instructor's discretion. Please regularly check Brightspace for access to readings and assignments.*

Week	Date	Topic	Readings + Assignments
1	Thursday, January 2	Introduction, The Sociological Imagination, What is Sociology?	**Read:** C.W. Mills' *The Promise* excerpt pages 1-3 **Read:** Chapter 1
Reading Worksheet #1 Due Sunday, January 5 at 11:59pm on Brightspace.			
2	Monday, January 6	Overview of Sociological Research Methods Culture and Media	**Read:** Chapter 2 **Watch:** Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment (14 minutes) **Read:** Chapter 3
	Tuesday, January 7	Socialization and The Social Construction of Reality	**Read:** Chapter 4
	Wednesday, January 8	Social Groups	**Read:** Chapter 5
	Thursday, January 9	Social Control and Deviance Stratification	**Read:** Chapter 6 **Watch:** Social Stratification Video (11 minutes)
Reading Worksheet #2 Due Thursday, January 9 at 11:59pm on Brightspace.			
3	Monday, January 13	Gender and Sexuality	**Read:** Judith Lorber's *Night to His Day* **Read:** P. Schwartz's *The Social Construction of Heterosexuality* **Optional Reading:** Chapter 8
	Tuesday, January 14	Race and Ethnicity	**Read:** Chapter 9
	Wednesday, January 15	Poverty, Class, and Capitalism	**Read:** Erik Olin Wright, "But At Least Capitalism is Free and Democratic, Right?" *Jacobin Magazine* **Read:** Chapter 10
	Thursday, January 16	Health and Society	**Read:** Chapter 11
Reading Worksheet #3 Due Thursday, January 16 at 11:59pm on Brightspace.			

4	Monday, January 20	**No class. College closed.**	
	Tuesday, January 21	The Family Education	**Read:** Chapter 12 **Watch:** Social Inequality in Education Video (11 minutes)
	Wednesday, January 22	Authority and the State Collective Action and Social Movements	**Read:** Chapter 15 **Watch:** Raided: A Documentary (20 minutes) **Read:** Chapter 18 pages 751-780 **Watch:** Labor Unions Video (5 minutes)
Reading Worksheet #4 Due Wednesday, January 22 at 11:59pm on Brightspace.			
Reflection Paper Due Thursday, January 23 at 11:59pm on Brightspace.			