Hunter College,
The City University of New York
Department of Sociology
Sociology 101
Section 05
Fall 2023
3 Credits

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Introduction to Sociology

Course Meetings: Monday and Thursday 2:30-3:45pm, West Building, room W405
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 1-2pm and by appointment

Course Description: Sociology is a social science that focuses on the systematic understanding of social interactions, organizations, institutions, and change. Major themes in sociology include the interplay between the individual and society, how society is both stable and changing, the causes and consequences of social inequality, and the social construction of human life. Understanding sociology helps students discover and explain social patterns and to see how social patterns change both over time and in different settings. By illuminating the social basis of everyday life, sociology also helps students develop critical thinking by revealing the social structures and processes that shape diverse forms of human life.

Learning Goals: This course is designed to prepare you to:

1. Understand and apply sociological concepts, methods, and theories to the world we live in.

2. Become an effective oral and written communicator of themes that affect society and interpersonal relationships.

3. Critically evaluate social life from a sociological perspective.

Course Readings: This course participates in the CUNY Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) program which offers students courses that do not require the purchase of any books. This program is intended to make college more affordable to all students. All the readings for this course are on Blackboard, and must be accessed and read before class. The readings can be found by clicking on the "Course Materials" section on the left-hand-side menu in Blackboard. You are not required to bring the readings to class. But you may choose to do so by printing them out or by viewing them on your electronic devices.

Grading System:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	59% and below

Grading Scheme:

Class participation	**25%**
Writing Assignment	**20%**
Exams (Midterm 25%, Final 30%)	**55%**

Class Participation should indicate that you have read the assigned readings and are paying attention to the lecture. Responding to questions, asking your own questions, listening in an engaged way, and doing in class assignments, will earn you a positive grade for class participation.

Writing Assignment: This course requires that students submit a two-page writing assignment. A detailed description of the assignment will be provided at the appropriate time during the semester.

Exams: The midterm and final will be taken in class and will consist of a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. The final is not cumulative. The midterm and final may only be taken on their scheduled dates and times.

Attendance Policy: Excessive absences will diminish your class participation grade and will make it difficult for you to do well on the exams. This can significantly decrease your course grade. Thirty minutes late will count as an absence.

Cell Phone Policy: Please turn off your cell phone during class. Texting and other cell phone use in class are strictly prohibited and will significantly lower your class participation grade.

Office Hours: I have regular office hours each week when I am available to students in person. Office hours are an important opportunity for students to speak to the professor one-on-one about their performance in the course. It is the student's responsibility to monitor her or his progress. Thus, I strongly encourage you to come speak with me during office hours at any time throughout the semester to discuss your progress.

If you are contacting me by email, ***you must include your full name and identify your course and section number in your email***. I teach multiple courses, so please let me know which class you are in. I check email frequently throughout the week and I will try to reply within 24 hours of your email.

I do not under any circumstances offer students a grade of "incomplete." **All course assignments must be submitted by the last day of the semester.**

Please Note: I will make every effort to stick to the syllabus as written. However, I reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary for the benefit of the course.

Course Topics and Readings:

August 28 **What is Sociology?**

August 31 **The Sociological Imagination**
C. Wright Mills, "The Promise"
Max Weber, "The Case for Value Free Sociology"

September 4 **Labor Day—*No Class***

September 7 **Culture & Ethnocentrism**
Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"

September 11 **Culture & Ethnocentrism**
Marvin Harris, "India's Sacred Cow"

September 14 **Socialization**
"Socialization," openstax

September 18 **Social Interaction in Everyday Life**
Erving Goffman, "The Presentation of Self"

September 21 **(So-called) Deviance**
David Rosenhan, "On being Sane in Insane Places"

September 25 ***No Class***

September 28 **Organizations**
George Ritzer, "The McDonaldization of Society" and David Sudnow, "Dead on Arrival"

October 2 **Crime**
Emile Durkheim, "The Functions of Crime"

October 5 **Crime**
"Why Sex Offenders Matter," from *Protecting Our Kids?: How Sex Offender Laws Are Failing Us,* Emily Horowitz

October 9 **Indigenous Peoples' Day—*No Class***

October 10 ***Classes follow a Monday schedule***

In Class Midterm Review

October 12 ***In Class Midterm Exam***

October 16 **Conformity & Isolation**
Stanley Milgram, "Behavioral Study of Obedience"

October 19 **Sexuality**
"Gender, Sex, and Sexuality," openstax
Writing Assignment due

October 23 **Gender**
"What's Wrong with Cinderella?" from *Cinderella Ate My Daughter: Dispatches from the Front Lines of the New Girlie-Girl Culture,* Peggy Orenstein

October 26 **Race**
Buzzfeed article, "How Not To Talk About Race And Genetics"
R.C. Lewontin, "Confusions About Human Races"

October 30 **Ethnicity**
Stephen Steinberg, "Why Irish Became Domestics and Jews and Italians Did Not," from *The Ethnic Myth*

November 2 **Religion**
Robert Bellah, "Civil Religion in America"

November 6 **Class**
Erik Olin Wright, "But At Least Capitalism is Free and Democratic, Right?" *Jacobin Magazine*

November 9 **Class**
Matthew Desmond, "Americans Want to Believe Jobs are the Solution to Poverty: They're Not," *The New York Times*

November 13 **Politics**

Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers, "Democracy: How It Works," from *American Society: How it Really Works*

November 16 **Education**
Jesse Hagopian, "The Testocracy versus the Education Spring"

November 20 **Healthcare**
"Healthcare," from *American Society: How It Really Works*, Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers

November 23 **Thanksgiving—*No Class***

November 27 **The Media**
Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky, "A Propaganda Model," from *Manufacturing Consent*

November 30 **The Media**
Jean kilbourne, "Jesus is a Brand of Jeans"

December 4 **The Environment**
Mary Annaise Heglar, "I Work in the Environmental Movement. I Don't Care if You Recycle," *Vox*

December 7 **Social Change**
Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward, "Poor People's Movements and the Structuring of Protest" from *Poor People's Movements*

December 11 ***In Class Review***

December 14 ***In Class Final Exam***

Other Policies and Information

Hunter College is committed to the health and well-being of all students. It is common for everyone to seek assistance at some point in their life, and there are free and confidential services on campus that can help.

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.

Classroom Climate: In this class, we will discuss controversial topics. Please keep in mind that the student body is diverse and refrain from making assumptions about who is or is not around

you. We all have opinions, and it is okay to respectfully disagree with other people's comments. It is also okay to engage in passionate discussion. It is not acceptable to engage in actions that are hostile, derogatory, and/or disrespectful.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct: 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, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting 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.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-SexualMisconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf

Accessibility: 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/TTY (212) 650-3230.

Food or Housing Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (email: dean.of.students@hunter.cuny.edu, phone: 212.772.4847) for support. You may also speak to me if you feel comfortable doing so.

Additional resources related to access to food and housing, childcare, mental health, and legal advice are available here: http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/hclpp/resources

Ask for Help: If for any reason you are having trouble completing the assignments in this course, please let me know, so I can help you do well.