Sociology 101: General Introduction to Sociology
Queens College, CUNY
Fall 2025
Monday & Wednesday 1:40PM – 2:55PM

Department of Sociology
Instructor: Dr. Ryan C. Sperry
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Office Hours: Monday 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Course Description and Objectives

Welcome to General Introduction to Sociology. This course offers a broad introduction to the field of sociology. We will explore the role of social factors in human behavior; the function of social institutions; and the logic of sociological inquiry. After completing this course, you should have a better understanding of yourself and society. You should be able to recognize the impact of culture, social class, and group membership, on your own actions.

One goal of the course is that you will be able to apply a sociological perspective to current events in the world. Through the readings and lectures you will learn to use the sociological perspective, which emphasizes the connections between the larger society and individual lives. This sociological perspective will aid you in making decisions about your life, career, and community. This course will enable you to apply ideas from the class to current events and empower you to think critically about issues in your life. You should also develop a better understanding of social problems caused by inequality across the categories of gender, race, and class.

This course will begin by providing you with a basic understanding of the concepts, methods and theories which sociologists employ in their research. We will then move on to discuss the foundations of society itself, including culture and socialization. We will also discuss how people interact and form groups. Another subject of discussion will be inequality and stratification. We will look at the sources of inequality within society and try to explain why inequality persists by examining the effects of class, race, and gender on our opportunities in life. Finally, we will look at several institutions within society. We will discuss the role of the family, work, and organizations in our lives.

The course has the following learning objectives:
1) Possess a basic understanding of the concepts, methods, and theories which sociologists employ in their research.
2) Recognize the impact of culture, social class, and group membership, on your own actions.
3) Discuss the sources of inequality and stratification within society and explain why inequality persists by examining the effects of class, race, and gender on our opportunities in life.
4) Apply a sociological perspective to current events in the world.
5) Interpret scholarly/academic research and construct logical (written) arguments.

Required Text
Introduction to Sociology by Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard Appelbaum, and Deborah Carr. Seagull 13th Edition (2023). W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN-10: 1324062223

This text has both physical and digital copies available and you can use either for the course. This text will be supplemented with additional materials which will be made available through the course brightspace website.

Brightspace & Technical Support
You will be required to have access to the brightspace system for this course. Make sure that you have a working email address associated with your brightspace account. Let me know if you have any problems accessing brightspace. If you require help to resolve technical difficulties, contact the Help Desk staff. The O.C.T. Help Desk provides support for Queens College students, faculty and staff. They respond to requests regarding Brightspace, QC Username, Email, CUNY Portal access, connecting to the QC wireless network, software upgrades, virus removal, hardware/software troubleshooting, and other issues related to technology.
Technical Support for student:
Phone: 718-997-4444
Email: helpdesk@qc.cuny.edu
Online self-service: https://helpdesk.qc.cuny.edu

Policy on Student Accommodations
Students with special needs are encouraged to see me about accommodations during the first week of class so that I can make sure that you have the necessary tools to succeed, in accordance with campus policy and laws. Students needing academic accommodation should register with and provide documentation to the Special Services Office. For more information about services available to Queens College students, contact the Special Services Office online: https://www.qc.cuny.edu/sp/

Attendance & Participation
You are expected to come to class on time and remain for the full period. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. You should use email to inform me of an expected absence as soon as possible. If an absence is unavoidable, contact me and follow this syllabus so that you are up to date with the reading and other assignments before the next class meeting. You are expected to come to class having completed the assigned reading, participate in class discussions, and contribute to the creation of a mutually respectful intellectual community. The classroom is a professional environment, and it is expected that all members of the class treat it as such. The most important consideration is always mutual respect. Poor attendance, arriving late to class, and leaving class early will adversely affect your final grade.

Academic Integrity
Cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of data, obtaining, or purchasing someone else's or an anonymous piece of work and submitting it as your own work will result in failure on the assignment or examination. In addition, violations of academic integrity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures established by the City University of New York. Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or

unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrasing, summarizing, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, so long as the source is cited. For more information on academic integrity visit:
https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-resources/academic-integrity-policy/

Assignments

For our written assignments in this course, we will be using Social Explorer and The New York Times. Using both, you will use data to create maps and reports. There will be several assignments over the semester. Both Social Explorer and The New York Times subscriptions are available to students for free through our Queens College Library. The assignments will allow you to analyze course concepts in relation to your own communities.
Social Explorer (libguides.com)
https://library.qc.cuny.edu/blog/times-subscriptions/

Exams

There will be three exams. All these exams will require you to answer questions on the materials we have discussed up to that point. If you arrive late for an examination, you will not be given any additional time to complete it. In addition, if you leave before completing your examination you will not be allowed to return to class before the time allotted for the examination is over. Lastly, if the first person to complete an examination leaves the room, anyone arriving late will not be allowed to take that examination. Makeup exams will only be considered if you provide a documented excuse or discuss it with me in advance.

Grading

All aspects of your work will be evaluated, including participation in class. The final grade will be calculated as follows:
Assignments: 40%
Exams: 60% [20% for each Exam]