

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY – SOC 101**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Fall, 2018**

**CRN: 10160/61, Section 01/02, 3 credit hours**  
**Admin 303, MWF 2-2:50/TR 2-3:15**  
**Prerequisites: none**

**Instructor:** Dr. Katie Pridgen, Assistant Professor of Sociology

**Phone:** 304-384-6026

**E-mail:** kpridgen@concord.edu

**Office:** Admin 215

**Contact Details:** Email is the best way to contact me – I will respond within 24 hours through the week. I can be reached by phone during office hours or you can leave a message.

**Sociology Department Website:** <http://www.concord.edu/sociology/node/1>

**Office Hours:** MTWTh 12:30-2 or by appointment

**Course Management System:** You are required to use Blackboard for this course. Important course materials, additional readings, and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. Both papers and several weekly assignments will be completed and submitted online. Grades will also be available on Blackboard. You are encouraged to check the course website frequently, at least 2-3 times per week.

**Hardware/Software Needs:** You must have access to a computer with software that allows you to type documents and access the internet. You must have access to Blackboard.

**Required Text:**

Conley, Dalton. 2015. *You May Ask Yourself: An introduction to thinking like a sociologist*, 4th edition. New York: W.W. Norton.

Other readings on Blackboard

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the perspective and discipline of sociology. Sociology, commonly defined as “the scientific study of society,” focuses on the patterns, trends, or rates of behavior within human groups. The groups studied can be as small as two people or as large as entire societies. The guiding assumption of sociology is the groups to which we belong have a powerful influence on our behavior. In fact, this influence is so strong that most of us do not realize how much our individual preferences, opinions, choices, and habits have been shaped by our group memberships. Sociology can raise your awareness of these influences and, as a result, can help you to think for yourself and make decisions that work in the best interest of the groups you care about. This can also help you to place information and experiences within larger contexts.

## Course Expectations:

**1. Respect is essential for this class.** On one level, this means do not disrupt class, try not to be late, and do not pack up early. Cell phones and laptops are not permitted in class (unless you have my permission), so silence and stow your technology before you get to class. Sociology is about interaction and trying to understand the experiences of others, so we will be minimizing screens.

In addition, sociology can involve discussion of controversial topics; on this level I expect that you will have the utmost respect for your colleagues and their opinions. I know you are adults – you will be expected to act as such. I reserve the right to call you out in front of everyone, ask you to leave (temporarily or permanently) and/or lower your grade if you are disruptive, aggressive, or disrespectful to any college employee, student, or guest in our classroom.

**2. Regular class attendance** will be essential to your success in this class, as each class day will contain substantial information. Most of the test material will be presented both in class and in the text; however, you will see questions on the test that reflect information found only in class or only in the text. In other words, it is in your best interest to attend class as much as possible.

### \*\*ATTENDANCE/EXCUSE POLICY\*\*

I do NOT give out my lecture notes or PowerPoint slides. If you miss class FOR ANY REASON, *excused or not*, you are responsible for the information you miss. You do not need to contact me regarding your absence unless you want to be excused.

For an absence to be considered “excused:”

- Your absence is due to illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (ie: field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (ie: jury duty or subpoena) will also be excused. Other reasons may also be approved, please talk to me directly.
- You can provide appropriate documentation. [I do NOT need a copy of these documents; you only need to show them to me. Remember that as an employee of Santa Fe College, I am bound by federal FERPA regulations regarding the disclosure of any of your personal information.]
- You contacted me before your absence if possible and *no later* than 24 hours after your absence.

If your absence is excused, it is your responsibility to complete the missed work within one week of your absence. Missed work may not be the same format as the original; an in-class group assignment, for example, would be modified to an individual one. Make up tests may be all essay format.

**3. Check your email and the course website frequently** (at least twice a week). Announcements about changes to the course schedule, syllabus, or class meeting time will be stated there.

**4. I must say this for the record: No Cheating.** This includes – but is not limited to – plagiarism or the use of any work from books, articles, other students, the Internet, or other sources that are incorrectly cited. If you have questions about citations, plagiarism, or cheating, please ask me. You

will earn a zero for any plagiarized work. I will refer you to Student Judicial Affairs in any case of violation.

**5. Talk to me.** Drop by during office hours or send me an email. I expect to hear from each of you at least once, even if it is just to introduce yourself. I am here to help. Please notify me of any special needs or obligations as soon as possible (preferably in the first week of classes) or as soon as they arise. You are also encouraged to contact me at any time throughout the semester for help with the course material or access to the textbook.

**Concord University Educational Goals:**

1. Skill 1: Effective inter-communication skills and literacy adapted as needed for the demands of various kinds of discourse.
2. Skill 2: An ability to employ appropriate observational, logical, analytical, computational, creative, and critical thinking skills within and across disciplines; and to apply these skills in problem-solving
3. Knowledge 1: An ability to discern the reciprocal influences of environments, cultural beliefs and attitudes, and societal institutions and practices.
4. Attitudes 1: Habitual reflection on ethical/moral implications of actions when weighing decisions and evaluating outcomes.
5. Attitudes 3: Respectful attentiveness to differing perspectives and willingness to engage in dialogue across differences in order to seek mutual understanding and equitable conflict resolution.

**National Standards:** not applicable

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Identify, explain, and apply basic concepts and theories that make up the sociological perspective
2. Identify the basic principles of the scientific method upon which sociological research is based.
3. Identify a range of topics studied by sociologists
4. Reflect upon the impact of your cultural background on your values, beliefs and opinions.
5. Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism when examining cultures other than your own.
6. Identify the impact of social location, determined by factors such as race, ethnicity, social class, gender, sexual orientation and physical ability, on life chances and experiences.
7. Apply the sociological perspective on social inequality to a contemporary example or social issue of your choice.

**Course Requirements:** Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on papers, exams, attendance and weekly assignments. There is no extra credit and no curve.

Exam 1	50 points (about 15%)
Exam 2	50 points
Exam 3	50 points
Cumulative Assessment Quiz	50 points

Attendance	50 points
Weekly Assignments	50 points
Paper 1	25 points
Paper 2	25 points
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Total Points Possible:	350 points

**Grading Scale:**

315 and above = A	245-279 = C	209 or less = F
280-314 = B	210-244 = D	

**Exams:** There are three exams in this class, all worth 50 points each. Each one will cover about five chapters of the text, as well as corresponding information from class lectures, activities, videos and outside readings. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Cellphones or other electronic devices may NOT be used during an exam for any reason. Use of these during an exam will be considered an instance of academic dishonesty.

**Cumulative Assessment Quiz:** You will take a 25 question cumulative assessment quiz at the beginning and end of the semester. This multiple choice quiz is intended to check your comprehension and retention of major sociological concepts and give us an opportunity to see how much you actually learn in this class.

**Missed exams:** see above attendance policy

**Attendance:** Attendance and participation will comprise a total of 50 points of your final grade. Each class day is worth 2 points. Leaving class early, coming to class late, sleeping, texting, or any other forms of not paying attention will deduct points from your grade.

**Weekly Assignments:** You will have weekly assignments. These short assignments may be given in-class or posted on Blackboard – either way detailed instructions will be given. They will take several formats, including quizzes, short writings, discussion posts, or group work.

**Papers:** There will be two papers throughout the semester, each worth 25 points. Details about papers will be given in class and posted on the course website – papers must be submitted on Blackboard. Generally, these papers should be 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced). Careless or numerous proofreading mistakes will drop your paper grade by up to a full letter.

**Late assignments and papers** will be accepted up to two days (48 hours) past the due date with a 5% penalty for each day late.

## Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Reading*</b>
1	Course Introduction; Sociology and the Social Sciences; The Sociology Major	ch. 1
2	History of Sociology; Founding Sociologists	ch. 1
3	Sociological Research	ch. 2
4	Culture; Media	ch. 3
5	<b>EXAM ONE</b>	
6	Socialization; total institutions; social construction of reality	ch. 4
7	Social Control; Deviance	ch. 6
8	Social Stratification	ch. 7
9	Social Stratification	ch. 7
10	<b>EXAM TWO</b>	
11	Sex and Gender	ch. 8
12	Race and Ethnicity	ch. 9
13	Wealth and Poverty	ch. 10
14	Work and the Economy	ch. 14
15	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
16	<b>EXAM THREE</b>	

\* Additional readings TBA

# UNIVERSITY POLICIES

## **Accessibility/Accommodations:**

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## **Concord University Honor Code**

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

*"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."*

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

## **Class/Online Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## **Emergency Alert System**

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

## **Emergency Information**

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:

<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

#### University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

#### Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

#### Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

*\*Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

### **Student Conduct**

A typical class meeting will consist of a mixture of lecture and small and large group discussion related to the assigned readings for that day. At each class meeting you should be prepared to share your reactions to the readings with the group. Therefore, it is extremely important that you have done the assigned reading prior to each class meeting. I will do my best to create a classroom environment that is not only conducive to learning, but relaxed and enjoyable. This environment can only be achieved if you do your part as well. Although you are free to disagree with the ideas of your classmates, the instructor and the reading material, you MUST express your disagreement in a respectful manner.

- Racist, sexist or homophobic comments will not be tolerated
- Electronic devices should not be used during class
- If your behavior becomes disruptive you will receive a warning. If your behavior continues to be disruptive you may be dropped from the class.

### **Technology Services**

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail [cuhelpdesk@concord.edu](mailto:cuhelpdesk@concord.edu).

**Syllabus Disclaimer**

**"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."**

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